

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends claim 1 and the specification and adds claims 2-28. The amendments and the added claims introduce no new matter in the Application. The amendments to claim 1 are only meant to correct typographical errors in order to make the terminology of the claim consistent with the terminology used in the claim and specification. Among other places the amendments to claim 1 are supported by the specification at page 3, lines 21-22; page 4, lines 1-2; page 8, lines 8-23; and page 9, lines 1-20. The added claims 2-26 are supported by the entire originally filed specification and figures.

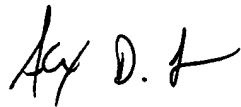
The amended paragraphs of the specification introduce no new matter in the Application and are only being submitted to correct typographical errors and to make the disclosure consistent. The amendments to the specification are supported by the originally filed claims, the figures and the specification itself. Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims and the specification of the Application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the Application as amended.

In view of the fact that Applicants have added three additional independent claims and an additional twenty-four dependent claims, the Application now has 28 claims. Accordingly, Applicants provide a check in the amount of \$240.00 for the seven dependent claims and one independent claim that exceed the twenty claims covered by the original application fee.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a patentable contribution to the art. Allowance of this application is, therefore, respectfully requested. In the event that Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for additional payment of fees, Applicants authorize any deficiency to be charged to deposit account number 09-0007. When doing so, please refer to our File No. P00924-US-01 (06579.0374).

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Executed Declaration
Check in the amount of \$130.00
Replacement Sheets for Figures 1-25
Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts
Preliminary Amendment
Check in the amount of \$240.00
Information Disclosure Statement
Return Postcard

cc: Mr. Robert J. Menchetti (w/enclosures)
Anthony Nimmo, Esq. (w/out enclosures)